



## All About QUALITYstarsNY

### What is QUALITYstarsNY?

QUALITYstarsNY is New York State's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), a voluntary system for all types of regulated early childhood programs that serve children from birth through age five. The goal of QUALITYstarsNY is to provide children and families with access to excellent early learning opportunities in order to help children succeed in school and in life. To mitigate the achievement gap experienced among the most vulnerable families, we prioritize enrollment for programs in high-need communities.

### How it works

Continuous quality improvement is the core focus of QUALITYstarsNY. When programs join, they partner with a dedicated Quality Improvement Specialist (QI Specialist), a seasoned expert in early childhood program administration who will advise them throughout their participation. Programs are assessed and assigned a rating on a 5-Star scale based on a set of research-based quality indicators that examine everything from a program's learning environment to the qualifications and experiences of its teaching staff and administrators. A rating of 4 or 5 Stars indicates an exceptional level of program quality. Programs review and reflect upon their rating results and work with their QI Specialist to build a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). The QIP establishes the specific areas for improvement and outlines the action items, as well as resources needed, to accomplish their improvement goals.

QUALITYstarsNY supports programs with a full complement of resources, such as materials and furnishings for the classroom and scholarships for staff to earn necessary degrees or credentials. Progress is tracked regularly, and programs are re-evaluated within three years to earn a new rating. In this way, participating programs are able to embark on a path of continuous quality improvement and are held accountable for achieving their goals.

### What we know

Research shows that children who attend high-quality early learning programs do better in school and throughout life. Moreover, QUALITYstarsNY's model for supporting high-quality programming has been proven effective. Among 200 programs that have been rated multiple times, 75 percent increased their star rating or sustained a high-quality rating of 4 or 5 Stars. Among programs rated 1 or 2 Stars, 60 percent increased their star rating, with one in four making significant progress to move up to a high-quality 4-Star rating.

### Where we are today

QUALITYstarsNY currently supports hundreds of programs across all ten economic development regions of New York State. As resources become available, QUALITYstarsNY will continue to expand enrollment across the state to ensure more of New York's children and families have access to high-quality early learning opportunities. Early childhood programs interested in participating in QUALITYstarsNY should fill out an "Intent-to-Apply" form on our website at [qualitystarsny.org/apply](http://qualitystarsny.org/apply) to start on the path to continuous quality improvement.

For more information, visit [qualitystarsny.org](http://qualitystarsny.org) or email [support@qualitystarsny.org](mailto:support@qualitystarsny.org).

